Vol. X. Numb. 82.

THE OBSERVATOR.

On the Election of a Mayor at Colcheſter *for the Year enſuing. The Practices of the Highflying Party and their Prieſts about it, and on* Dyer's *falſe Account of it; with other ſcandalous ſeditious Paragraphs of that Incendiary's Letters, to ſerve the Intereſt of the Jacobites.*

From Wednesday, October 10. to Saturday, October 13. 1711.

Countrym. I Muſt deſire you to ſuſpend your further Account of the Dethronement of King *Richard* II. becauſe here are two Letters, with an Account of ſome late Inſtances of the Behaviour of our Highflying Clergy and their Abettors, which ſhew they are not acted by the Spirit of Chriſtianity, nor are Friends to the Conſtitution of our Country.

Obſ. With all my heart, *Roger*; pray read them.

Countrym. The firſt is from *Colcheſter*, Maſter, and is thus.

SIR,

'I Send you herewith a fair and true State of the 'Caſe, relating to the Election of a Mayor 'for the Town of *Colcheſter*, which is ſcandalouſ-'ly miſrepreſented by *Dyer* in his Letter of *Octo-'ber* 6. 1711.

'On Monday the 3d of *September*, being the 'Day of Election, according to Cuſtom, the 'Mayor and Recorder being met in the *Mooth-'Hall*, the Queſtion was put to the Free Burgeſ-'ſes, aſſembled on the common Floor, *whom they 'would nominate to the Court of Aldermen*; the 'Whigs cry'd out, *Alderman* Clark; and the 'Tories, *Alderman* Boys: Upon which a Poll 'was demanded, and taken; and on caſting it 'up, a Majority of 49 Voices fell upon Alder-'man *Clark*. The Queſtion being put, *Whom they 'would nominate in the ſecond Place*; the Whigs 'cry'd *Alderman* Ja. Laurence, and the Tories 'Alderman *Boys*. Upon this they proceeded a-'gain to poll, and a Majority of about the like 'number fell upon Alderman *Laurence*; ſo that 'Alderman *Clarke* and Alderman *Laurence*, with-'out any further Objection made in that Court, 'were return'd to the Court of Aldermen, to 'chuſe one to be Mayor for the year enſuing. Up-'on this the Aldermen retir'd into the Council-'Chamber in order to make their Election, and 'there Alderman *Boys* by his Counſel demanded 'a Scrutiny of the Poll. On which Reply was 'made, that it was now too late, and that they 'ought to have demanded a Scrutiny whilſt the 'Court was ſitting upon the Bench. The Alder-'men proceeded, and made their Choice of Al-'derman *Laurence* to be Mayor; four of the Al-'dermen, who were in the Intereſt of Mr. *Boys*, 'marking for him, contrary to all Rule and 'Cuſtom, ſince he was not in nomination then be-'fore the Court of Aldermen. Upon the 29th 'of *September* the Court met to ſwear Alderman '*Laurence* Mayor, and Alderman *Boys* being on 'the Bench, inſiſted by his Counſel on being 'ſworn Mayor; but the Court looking upon the 'Motion to be frivolous and abſurd, rejected it, 'and proceeded to the ſwearing Alderman *Lau-'rence*; urging, that Mr. *Boys* had made no ſub-'ſtantial Objection againſt any of the Voters du-'ring the Poll, nor did demand a Scrutiny till 'twas too late, and that his Party had allow'd 'the Poll to be good, by putting Mr. *Boys* up a 'ſecond time: So that if Mr. *Boys* thought him-'ſelf injur'd, he muſt ſeek his Remedy elſewhere. 'Upon which he deſir'd to enter a Proteſt, and 'it was granted.

'*Note*, Thoſe Perſons they objected againſt as 'illegal Voters, were no other than ſuch as had 'been admitted and ſworn free Burgeſſes by the 'unanimous Conſent of an Aſſembly of the May-'or, Aldermen, Aſſiſtants and Common Coun-'cil, legally ſummon'd and met together in the 'Council-Chamber; which is ſo far from a bid-'ding defiance to the Parliament (as *Dyer* inſo-'lently expreſſes it) that 'tis purſuant and agreea-'ble to the laſt Reſolution of the Houſe of Com-'mons, reſolv'd upon the particular Caſe of *Col-'cheſter*. Notwithſtanding, had all thoſe againſt 'whom this Objection was made been ſtruck out of 'the Poll, the Majority would have fallen as before: 'So that their Threats of bringing a *Mandamus* 'are as much to be deſpis'd, as the Arguments 'they have to ſupport it will appear to be ridi-'culous, and ſerve only to expoſe themſelves and 'diſcover their Malice.

'And this they have ſufficiently done by ano-'ther Inſtance, as follows: It has always been a 'Cuſtom for the Mayor to appoint a Clergyman 'to preach before him upon the day of ſwearing 'the new Mayor; accordingly he appointed Mr. '*Skingle*, of the Pariſh of *Lexden*, within the 'Liberty of the Town, to preach before him.

'This Mr. *Skingle* is known to be well affected 'to the Queen and Government, and of ſufficient 'Abilities in his Miniſterial Function, which he 'diſcharges unexceptionably, according to the 'Rules and Directions of the Church; and is a 'Man of a very ſober Life and Converſation. The 'Mayor having fix'd upon him to preach, he ſent 'to Mr. *Sm——th*, Vicar of *St. Peters*, to deſire 'the uſe of his Pulpit; but he peremptorily re-'fus'd it. Upon this the Mayor ſent the ſame 'Meſſage to the reſt of the Clergy, *viz.* to 'Mr. *B——t*, Rector of *St. James's*, Mr. '*M——n*, Rector of *St. Mary's*, and to 'Mr. *Th——ted*, Curate of *All-Saints*; but re-'ceiv'd a poſitive Denial from them all, without 'giving any manner of Reaſon for their ſo do-'ing: only Mr. *M——n* anſwer'd, that he had 'no great matter againſt Mr. *Skingle*, but he un-'derſtood his Brethren had agreed to deny it, 'and he was not willing to be ſingular, for he 'ſhould be pointed at: upon which there was no 'Sermon. And yet ſome of theſe Gentlemen, 'particularly Mr. *B——t* and Mr. *Th——ted*, 'had the Aſſurance, notwithſtanding their hav-'ing given the Affront to the Mayor, to repair 'to his Houſe, after he was ſworn, with the reſt 'of the Gentlemen, to ſhare in a handſom Treat 'provided on that occaſion; where, whilſt they

'ſat

'sat at Table, Reasons were demanded of them by 'some of the Company for refusing Mr. *Skingle* 'their Pulpit: but not being able to give any that 'were sufficient, they contented themselves by 'Mr. *B——t* their Mouth to answer, That they 'were no more oblig'd to give any Reasons for it, 'than such as voted for Alderman *Laurence* were 'oblig'd to give their Reasons why they did not 'vote for Mr. *Boys*.

'Since that time, the better to gloss over the 'matter, false and scandalous Reflections upon 'the said Mr. *Skingle* have been trumpeted to the 'World by their Incendiary *Dyer*: particularly, 'That some time ago, in a thirtieth of *January* 'Sermon before the Mayor and Aldermen of this 'Town, he excus'd the Dissenters, and laid the 'Murder of King *Charles* to the Church of *Eng-land*; whereas he never did preach upon that 'Day any such publick Sermon, and he is not 'charg'd as having done it at any other time or 'place. They have charg'd him further with 'disusing the Cross in Baptism; which is e-'qually false, without any colour of Proof, 'and contrary to his firm and settled Principle, 'which he has often declar'd in Conversation ever 'since he has inhabited the Town. In short, the 'only thing they can lay to his charge, that carries 'any proof with it, is, that he always votes for 'that which they call the Whig-Interest; which, 'it seems, is enough to merit the Character of a 'dangerous Fellow that is not fit to be trusted in 'his Pulpit; as one of them (whose Immoralities, 'as 'tis notoriously known, do render him far 'more obnoxious) was pleas'd to express himself 'concerning Mr. *Skingle*.'

This is the Letter, Master, pray give me your thoughts of it, and of *Dyer*, who is the Trumpeter of their Scandal and Sedition in his written Letters, as *Abel* is in his printed Libels.

Obs. They are proper Tools for the Work, *Roger*, and as fit as any Men in the Nation to be Popish and Jacobite Scavengers. Their Itch of throwing Dirt and Scandal is so great, that neither Drubbing nor Prosecution is able to cure them of it. This infamous Incendiary *Dyer* threw dirt upon the Memory of the Duke of *Newcastle* lately deceas'd, and misrepresented his Funeral in so scandalous a manner, that notwithstanding his sneaking Recantation by which he would have father'd it upon his Clerk, I am inform'd he will hear of it from the Heralds-Office, who are concern'd to vindicate their own Honour as well as that of the deceas'd Duke from the villainous Aspersions of that Libeller.

He has likewise taken the liberty not long ago to reflect upon the Society erected in *Scotland* by her Majesty's Letters Patent, to promote Christian Knowledg in the North and Highlands of that Country, *&c.* and in his dull scoffing manner suggested, that one *Calder*, a *Scotish* Jacobite Priest, who is gone to those parts on pretence of dispersing Common-Prayer Books, but with more probability to promote the Interest of *St. Germains*, is like to do more Good there than that Society erected by the Whigs: yet this Man, who is *Dyer*'s Hero, and one of the High-Church Missionaries, stands convicted in print of a notorious and malicious Forgery, in point of History, to serve his Party, from which he has never been able to vindicate himself. So that we see what Interest *Dyer* is retain'd to serve; therefore we are not to wonder that he should libel those Gentlemen who stand for the Liberties granted them by Law, because 'tis contrary to the Arbitrary Practices of the Party; and if every one did so, would be an effectual Bar to the Pretender's Claim. We must refer the other Letter to the next Opportunity, Master.

ADVERTISEMENT.

This Day is Publish'd,

A LIST of the BLANKS (in a Numerical Order) of the Million and Half Lottery, drawn at Guildhall, October the 11th and 12th, 1711. being the Ninth and Tenth Day's Drawing, and so will be continu'd to be publish'd every Post-Day, for the ready finding of any Number. Very proper to be sent to the Country, for the Conveniency of Gentlemen and others, that are remote from the Place of Drawing. Price 6 d.

Printed for ANDREW BELL at the Cross-keys and Bible in Cornhil, Printer to the Honourable Commissioners of the Lottery; where may be had the Benefits publish'd every Night. Price 2 d.

N.B. At his House, and at the Office adjoining to the Crown-Tavern in King-street, the Corner of Cateaton-street, near *Guildhall*, and at the Office in the Passage into Palsgrave-Head Court without Temple-bar, on the left hand, is kept an Exact Numerical Book of the *Million and Half Lottery*, by which all Persons may be satisfy'd at sight, whether their Numbers be drawn Blanks or Prizes, and the day on which they were drawn. Where is also kept a *Numerical Register-Book*, in which any one may have their Tickets enter'd at Sixpence *per* Ticket. And as soon as any of 'em are drawn, Notice shall be immediately sent to any part of the City, and by the very first Post into the Country, of their Success.

Note, At the two first Offices may be seen an exact Numerical Book of the Five Classes in the *Two Million Lottery*.

†‡† The Ship-builders Assistant: or, some Essays towards compleating the Art of Marine Architecture: *viz.* I. A General Introduction, wherein is consider'd the Solid of least Resistance, so far as relates to the Formation of a Ship's Body, &c. II. Observations for Regulating the Price of Timber, taken from the Proportion of its different Dimensions; with Estimates of the Value of Oak-Timber, and several other Materials relating to Naval Stores. III. Rules for Building the Hull of any sort of Ships. To which is added the Scantling or Measuring of Ship-Timbers, and some Directions about Moulding them. IV. A New Method for finding the Tunnage of any Ship. V. Rules for proportioning the Rigging. To which is annexed, An Explication of the Principal Terms used in this Art. The whole illustrated with many Schemes proper to each Part, most of them from Copper-Plates. By William Sutherland, Shipwright and Mariner. Printed for *A. Bell* at the Cross-Keys and Bible in Cornhill, near Stocks-market. 1711.

†‡† An Account of the first Voyages and Discoveries made by the Spaniards in America. Containing the most exact Relation, hitherto publish'd, of their unparallel'd Cruelties on the Indians, in the destruction of above forty Millions of People. With the Propositions offer'd to the King of Spain, to prevent the further Ruin of the West-Indies. By Don Bartholomew de las Casas, Bishop of Chiapa, who was an Eye-Witness of their Cruelties. Illustrated with Cuts. To which is added, The Art of Travelling, shewing how a Man may dispose his Travels to the best Advantage.

*** The present State of Trinity-College in Cambridg, in a Letter from Dr. Bentley, Master of the said College, to the Right Reverend John Lord Bishop of Ely. Publish'd for general Information by a Gentleman of the Temple. The Second Edition Corrected Sold by A. Baldwin in Warwick-Lane.

LONDON Printed, and Sold by S. Popping at the *Raven* in *Pater-noster-Row*: Where Advertisements are taken in.